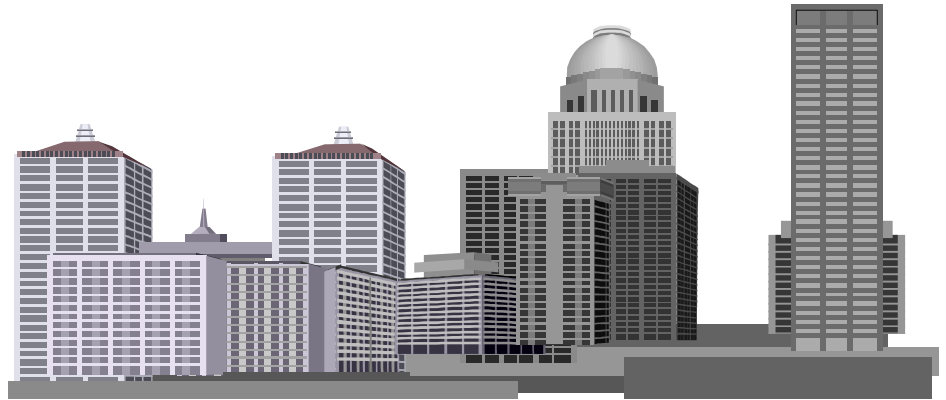


# Metro Archives Newsletter

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## B.C. Privacy Watchdog Probes Police's Use of Automated Licence-Plate Scanning, **ANDREA WOO**—Vancouver—The Globe and Mail 7/30/2012

British Columbia's Privacy Commissioner is investigating a licence-plate-scanning technology that civil-liberties advocates say is an ominous step toward unregulated surveillance in the province.

The automated licence plate recognition technology was introduced in B.C. in 2006 as a pilot project, with the goal of combating auto theft and motor vehicle violations. Currently being used in Vancouver, Victoria, Saanich and Abbotsford, ALPR uses infrared cameras mounted on top of marked and unmarked police vehicles to scan up to 3,000 plates an hour, helping authorities crack down on motor vehicle offenders and other criminals on provincial and federal "hot lists," police say.

But the cameras also log the information of people only peripherally on the legal radar – such as those who have been accused of, but not charged in, criminal activity – and essentially create a database of people's movements, say civil liberties advocates and privacy watchdogs.

Commissioner Elizabeth Denham's investigation was prompted by a written submission from "several individuals" who had concerns with the technology, said Cara McGregor, spokeswoman for the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. The investigation will focus on the use of ALPR by the Victoria police, but the published report – expected to be out later this summer – will provide guidance to law enforcement agencies across the province.

There are currently seven units comprising a total of more than 40 cameras in the four pilot cities, said Superintendent Denis Boucher, officer in charge of RCMP E-Division traffic services.

Using infrared cameras mounted on top of marked and unmarked police vehicles, ALPR scans the plates of parked and moving vehicles, registering "hits" – records for which come from the Canadian Police Information Centre and the Insurance Corporation of B.C. – on a screen inside the police vehicle.

Police say these records include prohibited, suspended and unlicensed drivers. Sex offenders, known criminals and child abductors – suspects named in an Amber Alerts, for example – also pop up. The system records licence plate numbers, where the vehicle was located, the type of hit recorded and the resulting action taken.

Privacy watchdogs have expressed concern from the beginning. The exact criteria that lands one on the hot list is ambiguous, they say, and the fact that people who have even been accused of a crime can end up on it is troubling.

"Originally, we were told this was going to be about stolen vehicles and things like kidnapping – things that are, if you will, obvious," said Micheal Vonn, policy director at the B.C. Civil Liberties Association. "Our understanding of what is actually happening, in terms of what generates a hit, is that it is massive: simple things like parole, probation, if you've even been accused of breaking a criminal law."

There is also the issue of data retention: "Simply put, gathering all of that data of what licence plates appear where [creates] a massive map of location data," Ms. Vonn said. "Our understanding ... is that the data is being retained for months or years. This, essentially, is a huge database of people's movements."

Rob Wipond, a Victoria-based freelance journalist who has researched the matter for almost two years, calls the technology "the beginning of a wave of unregulated surveillance."

"You've just got to ask yourself: Are you really sure that there's absolutely nowhere you go in your day, ever, that you don't want everyone to know?" he asked. "Because that's what it comes down to. You don't know who's going to have this information and how it's going to be used."

Mr. Wipond says his research has shown that someone who has attended court to establish legal custody of his or her child, or someone who's had an incident due to a mental-health problem for which police have attended, would register as a hit.

He says such a database also lays the foundation for risk profiling. As an example, he points to Britain, where authorities have used the same technology to log the whereabouts of protesters, at times intercepting them en route to demonstrations. "We know it's been used in that way. Is that something we're comfortable with, as Canadians?"

The investigation comes as provincial RCMP mull the retention of data of motorists not on the hot list, Supt. Boucher said.

"Right now, there is no information on the collection of those licence plates that are non-hits," he said. "We are considering what to do with that data. We are considering whether or not we should be keeping that data, or purging it like we do now."

## Gartner: 60% of Firms Plan to Snoop on Staff Social Media Use

June 13, 2012

ZDNet reported that companies are aiming to increase their watch on employees' social networking use. According to the research released by Gartner, roughly 60% of corporations will have programs in place to monitor accounts for security breaches and data

leaks by 2015. However, the article explains, there are risks of going too far. For example, some employers could visit Facebook pages to review employees' sexuality or marriage status. Andrew Walls, research vice president of Gartner, explained, "While automated, covert monitoring of computer use by staff

suspected of serious policy violations can produce hard evidence of inappropriate or illegal behaviors, and guide management response, it might also violate privacy laws." For more, visit the original source: Zdnet.com

From: ARMA International  
Washington Policy Brief Online

## Rent-A-Center Customer Documents Dumped

July 10, 2012

**LAWRENCEVILLE, GA** – A man who said he was looking for boxes for an upcoming move said he made a disturbing discovery in a dumpster behind a strip mall on Scenic Highway.

He showed 11Alive News a large, open box filled with 32 files containing people's personal information including social security numbers, addresses and copies of their driver's licenses.

The tipster didn't want us to televise his name or face, but his story about the data found checks out.

The name and address of Rent-A-Center at 247 Scenic Highway, Lawrenceville is on

documents in all 32 files. That office is in the strip mall where the dumpster is located. A manager at that Rent-A-Center referred 11Alive to a representative at the corporate headquarters. We called and left a message.

Three days later we received the following statement from Rent-A-Center headquarters: "Committed to the protection of sensitive customer information, Rent-A-Center has a nationwide contract with a leading shredding service for the secure disposal of sensitive documents. Though the source of this breach has not yet been fully determined, it appears to be tied to the inadvertent mishandling of a small box of files during a construction project."

Dumping sensitive documents is a serious matter. According to Georgia law (O.C.G.A. Section 10-15-1) a business should properly dispose of any {sensitive} documents." The statute goes on to say the business "needs to...shred...erase...modify records so that the personal information is unreadable."

To be fair, the company may not have been ready to dispose of the documents.

11Alive attempted to contact all 32 customers named in these files to warn them of the situation. Rent-A-Center attorneys requested that 11Alive return the dumped documents and the box they were found in. That happened Tuesday morning.

11Alive, Atlanta Georgia News

## UK Civil Servants Advised to Be Cautious with Social Media

The United Kingdom's Cabinet Office has published first-time guidance for civil servants on the use of social media.

The guidance begins with a focus on the positive aspects of using social media, especially in communicating with and engaging the public. Importantly, however, it goes on to stress the risks inherent in social computing.

The guidance stresses that civil servants must adhere to the Civil Service Code and the Civil Service Management Code. These codes

promote the core values of integrity, honesty, objectivity, and impartiality.

The report focuses on the dangers of getting caught up in the fast-moving pace of social media, where the click of a mouse can result in a defamatory or controversial comment.

Further, civil servants are assured there is no obligation to answer every social media query and to comment on every subject. It also warns against posting confidential information and using usernames that attempt to

provide anonymity since virtually anything online can be traced back to the originator.

In fact, Twitter is gaining such popularity in corporate and other government organizations that a number of guidelines are available. The U.S. National Labor Relations Board released a set of guidelines on July 11, 2012, that is directed to companies who want to ensure that their social media policies are lawful under the National Labor Relations Act.

Diane Carlisle, CRM  
For ARMA International

## Federal Data Breaches Escalate, Notifications Slow

An early-August article appearing on CSOnline.com expresses great concern not only with the increasing numbers and types of data breaches in the federal government, but also with the government's failure to notify quickly those whose information has been compromised.

Author Taylor Armerding cites a July 2012 report from the U.S. Government Accounting Office that says federal data breaches of personally identifiable information (PII) in-

creased by 19% from 2010 to 2011.

Too often, the victims of breaches are not notified for months. Armerding cites an instance in which 123,000 Thrift Savings Plan participants whose PII was compromised in July 2011 were not contacted until May 2012. Similarly, more than 5,000 Environmental Protection Agency employees had their Social Security numbers and banking information compromised in March 2012 and only learned about it in July.

Industry experts largely agree the problem with late notifications stems from the lack of a single standard. There are 46 state laws, each with its own language, and those that exist within the federal government differ from agency to agency. The National Conference of State Legislatures provides links to states' data breach notification laws at this website: <http://www.ncsl.org/issues-research/telecom/security-breach-notification-laws.aspx>.

By: Diane Carlisle, CRM for ARMA International



## Genealogy Corner...

### *Using Tax Records to Pull All the Pieces Together*

Tax lists are the only record in Kentucky which contain annually created records on most of the population. The family may not have owned land and may have hidden from the census taker, but the tax collector usually found them.

In general, Kentucky taxed real and personal property. Males over 21 also paid a poll tax which was like a head tax and really had little to do with voting. The real property that was taxed was usually land. The personal property might include slaves, cattle, horses, wagons, etc. The pre-statehood tax lists which have survived may separate real and personal property tax payment into two lists. Post-statehood tax lists combine the poll tax, real property, and personal property tax payment into one list.

The first Kentucky tax law in 1792 assessed land, slaves, horses and mules, cattle, coaches and carriages, billiard tables, retail stores, and all free white males about 21. All of these taxable categories can be used to identify individuals, particularly those with common names, across time. These become even more useful realizing that the tax commissioners were assigned to canvass their districts; they went from house to house. Men of the same surname taxed on the same day would most certainly have been living in the same neighborhood. Those adjacent in the list were often relatives. Examining and comparing individuals in particular neighborhoods is a good way to distinguish multiple men of the same name within a county.

By the end of 1793, the tax law changed again ordering the reporting of land holdings in other counties. Acreage, watercourse, and county was listed for each tract of land owned by the tax payer. The quality of the land was also noted. The reporting of land owned in other counties can often point to previous residences for the tax payer. The reporting of the acreage per tract points to deeds which should be examined. Land is often the key to following and proving relationships and tax lists can point to deed and probate records.

Men in the same neighborhood of the same surname were often related. What Jones men were adjacent to John Jones when he first paid taxes? Were the taxes paid on the same day? Were the adjacent Jones families of similar economic status; did they both own

slaves, horse, and cattle? Were the men well established, poor, or just establishing their own households? Do tracts of land seem to be taxed first under one man's name of the surname and then another? Leads from the tax list often provide clues to the study of other records.

By 1810, the tax law changed again. Tax commissioners were selected from the bounds of each militia company. Some counties identified the name of the captain of the militia company. Tax payers were required to travel to militia muster sites to file their taxes in either April or June. Since the tax collector no longer canvassed the neighborhoods, adjacent names in the tax list no longer imply that individuals lived in adjacent households.

With the passage of another ten years, education became part of the tax collector's duty. In December, 1821, law makers required tax collectors to record the number of children in each household. This column can be used to help match individuals in the tax lists and census records. Care should be taken to note the actual age range for the school age column across time.

Additional information might be recorded at the beginning or end of the tax list for a particular year. Care must be taken to gather all the information which the tax lists contain.

Researchers who have tried to save time summarizing information or leaving out some of the men of the same surname in a particular year have probably had to return to the same list multiple times. Researchers should be thorough in examining each year of the tax list. The researcher should not forget to look in the parent county when the person being studied paid taxes in the first tax list of a county. Every person of the surname of interest should be recorded. Every district for a particular year should be examined. If individuals of the surname of interest lived in more than one district, but some of them owned no land, then the land descriptions of other families in the district should be recorded to identify locations. This process of thoroughly examining the tax list year by year should continue until at least five years after the individual of interest disappears from the tax list before 1850.

All of this work can be the key to finding answers that are not obvious anywhere else.

The diligent researcher may be rewarded with information about one or several of the following:

- The tax list will suggest when a man first paid taxes in a county, often with a specific date. By using the information in the lists, the researcher may be able to determine whether he moved into the county or had been living there and had turned 21.
- Tax lists show a man above 21 on a particular date. Tracking men across time in conjunction with early census records can narrow birth years for men who were born and died before 1850.
- Tax lists show when a man disappeared from a county. If his land was listed under a female or another man, perhaps he died. Probate and court records could be searched for the settlement of his estate. Was a new county created which included his land or did he move? If he simply disappeared, deeds can be searched within a specific time frame for the sale of his land.
- The listing of all tracts of land with acreage, watercourse, and county before 1840 helps identify the land owned by a family. It can pinpoint where the family lived and give clues to locating deeds and grants. If the land is located in other counties, it may suggest an earlier county where the family lived.
- Linking men to their land, lack of land, and ownership of slaves, cattle, horses, etc. helps to distinguish men of the same name through their property and economic status.
- Tracking a man across time through tax lists, may show the various given names that a man used.
- The widow or heirs of man can often be identified as they pay taxes on his land when he dies. His death date can be narrowed if he left no will.

Jefferson County tax records from 1789-1892 can be reviewed at Metro Archives.

# Upcoming Events...

## September 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 ARCHIVES CLOSED	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

## October 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Metro U Destruction Training	26	27
28	29	30	31			

*Please contact the Metro Archives Staff at (502) 574-2554 for details and/or additional information about any scheduled event/s.*